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TRAINING AND RESEARCH: UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.71

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. By operative paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.71, the General Assembly would:
 - (a) Call upon the Secretary-General, in pursuance of paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 47/227, to designate a liaison officer to organize and coordinate the existing training programmes and research activities relating to training in New York, within existing resources;
 - (b) Decide that, as an interim measure and without budgetary implications, the full-time senior research fellows, appointed in 1992, should continue in their functions and status until a final decision is taken in this regard, on the basis of the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the Institute, by the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session;
 - (c) Request the Secretary-General to continue to provide office space in Geneva and New York and the usual logistical and administrative support for the Institute.

B. Administrative and financial arrangements

2. As indicated in paragraph 6 of the report of the Secretary-General on UNITAR (A/48/574), pursuant to the request contained in paragraph 2 of General

Assembly resolution 47/227, the Secretary-General designated the Chief of the Training Service, Office of Human Resources Management of the Department of Administration and Management, as the focal point to ensure a smooth transition for the organizational arrangements of UNITAR and to coordinate the remaining New York-based training programmes.

3. It is recalled that article VI (Fellows, consultants, correspondents and advisory bodies) of the amended Statute of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research states that:

"1. The Executive Director, in consultation with the Secretary-General, may designate each year a small number of especially qualified persons to serve as Senior Fellows of the Institute, as required, for the execution of its projects and programmes. Such persons, who may be invited to participate as lecturers or research scholars, shall be selected on the basis of outstanding contributions which they have made in fields germane to the work of the Institute, but they shall not be considered as members of the staff of the Institute, but may receive honoraria and be paid travel expenses. The Executive Director may also create other fellowships at the Institute.

"...

"5. Fellows, correspondents and other additional personnel of the Institute shall be financed from special purpose grants" (A/43/697/Add.1).

4. In paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 47/227 the General Assembly decided that, in accordance with the recommendations of the high-level consultant, as approved by the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and by the Secretary-General in his report, the headquarters of the Institute shall be transferred to Geneva, and requested the Secretary-General to designate a liaison officer to organize and coordinate the existing training programmes and research activities relating to training in New York, within existing resources, drawing as appropriate on the services of senior fellows who should be funded from voluntary contributions to the Institute; and further decided that, as at 1 January 1993, the funding of all the administrative budget and the training programmes of the Institute shall be covered from voluntary contributions, donations, special-purpose grants and executing agency overheads.

5. In accordance with paragraph 1 of article VI of the amended Statute of UNITAR, the responsibility for designating or continuing the full time Senior Fellows rests with the Executive Director of UNITAR and the Secretary-General.

6. The provision of office space in New York and Geneva, as well as the logistical and administrative support for the Institute, including senior fellows, would involve expenditures for rental and maintenance of office equipment, communications and miscellaneous services.

7. In accordance with paragraph 5 of article VI of the Statute of UNITAR and as decided by General Assembly resolution 47/227, all such expenditures would have to be covered from voluntary contributions, donations, special-purpose grants and executing agency overheads available to UNITAR and not from the

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United Nations regular budget. Moreover, all expenditures from such funds require the prior review and approval of related budgets by the Board of Trustees of UNITAR, in accordance with paragraph 2 of article III and paragraph 1 of article VIII of the Statute.

8. Thus, if the United Nations Institute for Training and Research is unable to cover the expenditures regarding office space and the cost of the logistical and administrative support, the Secretary-General would not be authorized to cover such costs from the regular budget of the United Nations.

C. Summary

9. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.71, all logistical and administrative expenditures, including supporting activities of senior fellows, provision of office space in Geneva and New York and other support services, would have to be financed exclusively from voluntary contributions, donations, special-purpose grants and executing agency overheads of UNITAR, if such resources are available.
